

DHMH Issues Consumer Alert Regarding Recall of Baugher's Apple Cider

Department of Health & Mental Hygiene News Release

ADVISORY

Baltimore, MD (November 4, 2010) -- The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and local health departments are conducting an investigation of a cluster of seven *E. coli* O157 infections. There have been no deaths, although three of the seven cases have been hospitalized. A potential association exists with the consumption of unpasteurized Baugher's apple cider.

In response to this ongoing investigation, Baugher's Orchard & Farm of Westminster, MD today issued a voluntary recall of **all** its apple cider because of its potential to contain the *E. coli* bacteria. At this time, no other Baugher's products are affected by this recall.

E. coli O157 can cause severe bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps, fever, non-bloody diarrhea, or no symptoms at all. Some infected people, particularly young children and the elderly, may develop a form of kidney failure known as hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), which can lead to serious kidney damage and even death.

If a person has an illness consistent with *E. coli* O157 he or she should see their healthcare provider. Consumers should not consume the recalled cider and should discard any remaining cider. Approximately 20-40 *E. coli* O157 cases are reported in Maryland each year. Last year 24 *E. coli* O157 cases were reported to DHMH.

A fact sheet on *E. coli* O157 can be found at <http://edcp.org/factsheets/ecoli.cfm>